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Niagara NEWS

VOLUME 29, NO. 13 | FREE | MARCH 19, 1999

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March 17 was Student Appreciation Day at the college. The day was filled with a variety of events from concerts to contest draws. See full coverage in our March 26 issue.

Photos by Sean Coffey and Jodi Gierling

Axworthy at Glendale campus today

By TIFFANY HERRON
Staff Writer

The Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, federal minister of foreign affairs, will be visiting Niagara College today. He will be here to address students at the Glendale campus at 12:45 p.m. in W111, on "Canada's role on the world stage."

He brings a "unique" perspective as foreign affairs minister.

The college received information Axworthy was going to be in the area and was open to a speaking engagement in the Niagara Region. An invitation was sent to Axworthy and he accepted.

Appointed as minister of foreign affairs in 1996, Axworthy is one of the most senior members of the federal government. He was first elected to Parliament in May 1979.

He has served as minister of employment and immigration, minister responsible for the status of women, minister of transportation, minister of human resources development and minister of western economic diversification.

"This is a great opportunity for the college," says Darrell Neufeld, executive assistant to the president. "We're very excited to hear what he has to say."

Axworthy will be speaking about Canada's contribution to world peace and the role Canada plays with the United Nations. He brings a perspective on world events and the role Canada's been playing.

Axworthy is "a very passionate Canadian" and as a former professor he should feel "right at home," says Neufeld.

Once Axworthy has spoken, the forum will open up for a question and answer period.

Job opportunities with police forces

By J.W. BROWN
Staff Writer

A number of police forces are looking for officers.

Numerous police and security services offered employment information to Niagara College students Tuesday, March 9, at the Justice Career Fair beside the gymnasium in the Mackenzie building, Welland campus.

Bonnie Rose, Niagara College's vice-president academic, and Nancy Cain, director of administrative and justice studies, welcomed the employers to the Welland campus.

"Let us make you welcome," Rose said. "We're very happy to have you here. You are people who are so important to the future of our students."

Gino Arcaro, formerly a detective with the Niagara Regional Police Service (NRP) for 15 years, coordinated the job fair. He is the coordinator of the Police Foundations and the Law and Security Administration programs at Niagara College's Welland campus. He has been with the college for 10 years.

"We think that this job fair has provided students with some very good opportunities to network with employers and I think the employers are very happy with seeing a lot of these students," Arcaro said. "I think this is a great opportunity for both sides and we're going to have another one in April. We're going to try to create as many opportunities for students to meet employers as we can and vice versa."

Sandy Thomas, sergeant, uniform recruitment unit, of Orillia, has worked for the Ontario Provincial Police for 14 years.

"I'm a recruiter for the OPP and we're doing a lot of hiring. We're looking for approximately 240 applicants within this year."

She said the recruiters' reason for being at the job fair was to answer questions about the recruitment process and the qualifications the OPP seek in a competitive applicant.

"I love my job," Thomas said. "I find it a career that you can create a lot of opportunities for yourself in. It's such a really rewarding career."

Diane Hendry, constable, recruiting officer, Halton Regional Police Service, Oakville, has been with the service for nine years. She said she was there to give students information about the Halton police service for recruitment purposes.

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Electrical Engineering Technology – Power Systems
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CHRYSLER CANADA

Eye On Niagara

Officers recruiting students for police, security careers

Sandy Thomas, Diane Hendry, Ron Yeates, Ralph Kendall and Glenn Code give career information to students at the Mackenzie building.

Photo by J.W. Brown

Continued from page 1

"It's a great job, it's a great career," she said. "Recruiting is just one of the many opportunities in a police service. I would highly recommend it as a career choice for students."

Ron Yeates, constable, recruiting officer, Hamilton-Wentworth Regional Police, 22 years on the force, said, "It's not just a job, it's a career. It's a way of life. It requires a mental and personality adjustment when you choose policing as a career because you're looked on by people 24 hours a day as an officer, and everything you do reflects the service."

Yeates said he was at Niagara College to let students know Hamilton is hiring for full-time posts and will continue to do so over the next two years.

Glenn Code, constable, recruiting officer, NRP, St. Catharines, has worked for 23 years as a police officer.

"We're here for the purpose of recruiting and providing information to individuals who are showing an interest in employment with the Niagara Regional Police as a constable. We expect to be holding several recruitment drives."

Ralph Kendall, operations manager, Initial Security, Hamilton, said, "I'm recruiting new officers for Initial Security. Initial Security is looking for young, ambitious individuals that would like to work in the security field. The security field is usually a starting stone for any persons that are trying to get into the law-enforcement field."

Initial Security started in 1948 as Barnes Security, then in 1991 the company's name was changed to Metropol Security. In 1998, the name became Initial Security, a worldwide company. Kendall has worked for the company for five years.

"I love my job," Kendall said. "I put a lot of time and effort into my job. I find that I'm very people-oriented to be able to manage my job with the staff I have."

For more information, contact Employment Services, Ext. 7787 at the Welland campus; Ext. 4165 at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake; and Ext. 3614 at the Maid of the Mist campus in Niagara Falls.

Human Resource Centre of Canada had student employment officers at all three campuses, March 17. Students were welcome to visit and find out about the many student employment opportunities.

Technology hasn't stopped cancer deaths

By BARBARA DODDY
Staff Writer

Everyone knows someone who has suffered cancer.

Although technology is advancing every day, cancer is still one of society's silent killers.

"Cancer is still with us," says Carolyn Hurst, health nurse for Niagara College's Welland campus. "We have found out a lot about it in the past 10 to 20 years . . . but still not all forms are treatable."

It is still with us. But should it be? Hurst says the technology in cancer treatment is just beginning and there is "so much hope."

"The research in Canada is phenomenal. We are world class in research as far as genetics and technological advances go in medicine. Canada can really brag their heads off."

Technological advances, however, don't affect the lives of everyday students, so Hurst talks to Niagara students about prevention.

She says students have to be aware of prevention methods and family history.

"I say to students here you don't have to religiously do self breast exams every month, but it is wise to do them now because you want to know what the normal is."

Just as important as it is for young women to know what their normal bodies feel like, it's the same for young men.

"It's the same with the testicles," says Hurst. "It's to get yourself familiar with how you should feel, and if you do find something, the sooner you identify it the more successful the cure is."

The Canadian Cancer Society (CCS) aiso stresses prevention. The society publishes pamphlets on cancer facts for men and women to increase awareness of what cancers may be a risk to them. The warning signs of each type of cancer are outlined so that identifying a problem is much easier.

For males, the CCS identifies lung, colorectal, prostate, testicular and skin cancers as predominant. For women, they are breast, colorectal, lung, cervix, endometrium and skin cancers.

Prevention is key regardless of the type of cancer. With Cancer Month being marked in April everyone should make an effort to check himself or herself out. Technology may help eradicate cancer but, until it does, early detection and treatment give us better odds against it.

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Editorial

Niagara News

The **Niagara News** is a practical lab for the Journalism-Print program, covering the college community and other areas of interest. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the management of the Niagara News or the administration of Niagara College. P.O. Box 1005, 300 Woodlawn Rd., Welland, Ont. L3B 5S2. Phone (905) 735-2211 Ext. 7753/ 374-7454/ 641-2252/ 563-3254 FAX (905) 736-6005.

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Due respect not given

No respect. No respect at all.

All year the *Niagara News* has printed coverage of most comedy nights, held weekly at the college's Welland campus. Our regular readers will have noticed a trend: good talent, lousy audiences.

People such as Kenny Robinson, Wayne Flemming, Ron Vaudry, Johnny Gardhouse and Andrew Grose work on the national circuit of Yuk Yuk's clubs, one of the highest career goals for a Canadian standup.

They've also headlined the Yuk Yuk's Superclub in Toronto, a coveted gig snagged only by the best.

The same comedians have all appeared for "one-nighters" at Niagara in the past year, and for what?

Their audiences are full of unappreciative people who treat the show like it's an amateur hour.

Audience members sit and drink, and seem to view the comedian more as a distraction to their conversations than the evening's entertainment.

It hurts the response of the whole crowd — they bring the mood of the room down with them.

For the most part, the only time anyone gets a good response is when the material centres around sex, drugs or alcohol. What does that say about the intellect of Niagara's students? Is this the kind of reputation we want as a school?

To all of you who go to comedy night just to drink and socialize, you aren't doing anyone a favour. A suggestion to you for next year: stay at home, open a beer and heckle your television set.

Sharilyn Johnson

Give no second chance

How high is the price you pay for drinking and driving?

Everywhere you see posters, bumper stickers and billboards telling you not to drink and drive. You hear it on the radio and hear it from deejays as you're leaving the nightclubs. No matter where you go, you can't get away from it.

Organizations, such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), have spent millions of dollars in advertising trying to get the message across — getting behind the wheel intoxicated is dangerous. Their messages are very real, but there are still people who refuse to see the stupidity of driving drunk.

What's the penalty if you get caught? In 1998, the Ontario government introduced new "hard core" drinking and driving laws. The legal limit under the federal Criminal Code was reduced from 80 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood to 50 milligrams. This was designed to deter the number of drunk drivers.

Changes to the laws should make it easier to prosecute impaired drivers and harder for offenders to continue driving after conviction.

The law has been made more onerous for offenders who get caught. But what about the people who don't? Even when offenders are caught, and their licence is suspended, what's stopping them from driving without their licence? If they were stupid enough to drive drunk, they'll be stupid enough to drive without their licence.

The rules need to be tougher. The police need to enforce them more. The judges have to make it count. We know someone who lost his licence because of impaired driving, has been caught driving without a licence and intoxicated again, and was supposed to serve jail time. Guess what? He ended up with 45 days of community service and a two- year licence suspension!

For such a serious crime, does 45 days really compare? This was just a slap on the wrist.

What if he had hit someone? What if it was your girlfriend or boyfriend or child he hit? How would you feel if you found out the person had already lost their licence for this offence.

Australia and some European countries have introduced sentencing systems in which offenders with high blood alcohol concentration (BAC) are subject to higher fines, longer prison terms, mandatory treatment, longer licence suspensions and/or technological countermeasures such as ignition interlock (a breathalizer test is taken before the car doors will unlock). These measures are something Canada should consider. Too many innocent people have lost their lives to stupid people.

Drinking and driving is very real and very serious. The first time offenders get caught, they should be charged. Then they should serve their jail time. Then they should buy a good pair of walking shoes.

They shouldn't be given a second chance!

Tiffany Herron

Correction

In the Vol. 29, No. 12, edition of the *Niagara News* published March 12, 1999, in a story headlined "Niagara soccer champs" on page 15, incorrect information was reported.

The report should have stated the Niagara College men's indoor soccer team won the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association Regionals on March 6 in Ancaster for the second time. The team is coached by Sandro Perruzza.

A Niagara College men's indoor soccer team won the Regionals for the first time in 1996 and it was also coached by Perruzza.

It's the policy of Niagara News to correct errors of fact.

After Hours manager praises coverage

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to the coverage of the Student Centre's Molson Canadian Rocks Cheap Date in the *Niagara News.*

Instructors in the Journalism-Print program must be full of pride to see the quality of work produced by students such as Sharilyn Johnson and Sarah Storm. The coverage of this event was the best I have seen in my five years.

In my position at the Student Centre I keep up to date with the music industry by reading many industrial journals. The coverage that Sharilyn provided compares to the professional standards that I see in many of the above noted magazines.

It is work like this that can make Niagara College proud of its publication, the *Niagara News*. Hats off to you for a job well done.

Dave Rapelje
Manager, After Hours

Viewpoints

Fasting a privilege, not a punishment

By RACHEL CZIFRA
Staff Writer

As a means of disciplining myself to be detached from physical desires, I abstain from food and drink from sunrise to sunset for 19 days in March.

I do not consider this annual fast a punishment, but a great privilege.

Observing this type of fast obliges me to awake a little earlier than usual, but it means I get to see the rising sun as I greet the day. The days are getting longer, spring is approaching and starting my day at the break of dawn from March 2 to March 20 really draws my attention to the changing season.

I gave up food and water as a sacrifice.

Eating lunch seems more like a habit than a need. During noon hour, rather than feeding my physical body, I pray, thereby giving nourishment to my spiritual body, my soul.

It's difficult for the first few days, but then a new habit of not eating takes over and a deeper comfort replaces the discomfort of a grumbling belly.

Not eating all day relaxes my digestive system, allowing my mind to focus on accomplishing tasks rather than wondering, "What am I going to have for lunch? When am I going to have lunch? or Did I remember to pack a sandwich?"

The fast was designated to Baha'is in the writings of Baha'u'llah who founded the Baha'i faith 155 years ago.

Some find fasting an annoyance. Some, doubting their willpower, choose not to fast.

People travelling long distances, people who are ill, women with new-born babies and the aged are exempt from the fast for obvious medical reasons.

Some may find fasting an annoyance. Some, doubting their willpower, choose not to fast. Still others find themselves unable to complete the entirety of it.

What I find consoling is that there is no judgment or expectation placed on anyone. The fast is there for us to observe, if we should choose to do so. Each person knows what he or she is, and is not, able to do.

I see giving up food and water as a sacrifice.

Throughout our lives we'll encounter many opportunities to sacrifice something of importance for something of greater importance.

I think this process gives us the chance to discover what is of true value in our lives.

Courtesy would go a long way

By SARA DE TAMBLE
Staff Writer

I'm writing this column with one specific person in mind: the moron who hit my car while it was parked in the college parking lot last Monday afternoon.

Have you no decency to consider the consequences of your actions on other people, for example, me?

Let me explain. My car isn't a Porsche by any means. It's a Chrysler Daytona, but you know what? It's mine.

I worked my butt off making minimum wage as a cashier to pay for it so I could go to Niagara, and, I hope, end up graduating so I *won't* have to be a cashier for the rest of my life.

I continue to work my butt off to pay the insurance and put gas in it to drive to school every day. I am not impressed.

Until last Monday, there wasn't a scratch on my car. It was in perfect condition. Now, thanks to the idiot who hit it, there's a lovely scrape extending across the entire driver's door body panel. It looks terrible, and I'm going to have to miss school for a couple of days while it's in the shop getting re-painted. Once again, I am not impressed.

I'm sure whoever the person was, he/she feels very bad about what happened. So bad, they didn't have the decency to write a note, or try to find out whose car they'd hit?

I really don't think it's that hard to back out of a parking space without hitting the car that's parked next to you. I have backed out of millions of parking spaces in the three years I've had my driver's license and never once have I hit another vehicle.

Here's a thought: take the $300 you should be giving me to get my car fixed and use it to take a driving course. Do the rest of us a favour.

Prostitution should not be legalized

By AARON BEAUDOIN
Staff Writer

It's a tough world out there.

With education funding from government nearly obsolete and inflation on the rise, how does a person survive?

For hundreds of years, some say since the beginning of time, people who find conditions impossible to deal with take to the streets to earn a living.

Illegal in most countries . . . prostitution is legally permitted in the Netherlands.

Prostitutes are familiar to most of us from the limelight focused on them on television and in the movies. Unfortunately, the storybook life in which they're depicted is far from reality.

Drugs, violence, AIDS and numerous other diseases are often part of the package when someone decides to have sexual relations with a prostitute.

By no means am I defending this profession, but rather alluding to one of the biggest problems facing our world today: the increasing proliferation of prostitution in family neighbourhoods.

Acknowledging the problem, most governmental officials strive to fight it. However, in one country things are quite the opposite.

Illegal in most countries across the world, prostitution is legally permitted in the Netherlands. From 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. in areas marked as "tipplezones," prostitutes can legally work the streets with no judicial repercussions.

What is this saying to those who wish to do the same? Simply it's giving them a precedence to follow suit.

The same issue affecting the Netherlands has now found its way east to Canada. Just as the Netherlands has allowed prostitution, so has Vancouver, B.C.

It shocks me to see our government allowing this to take place. Something should be done to prevent this sort of thing from becoming legal in our neighbourhoods and from affecting our children.

With Toronto just around the corner from here, the threat of this becoming reality is strong.

It's time the government and our elected officials put dollar figures aside and explored the moral issues involved in making this time-old profession legal.

Different religions, beliefs in Canada

By MUN-HEE SHIN
Staff Writer

Modern society consists of diversity.

Recently, I've been thinking about religions a lot because I've met a few people who strongly believe in God and who have different kinds of religion.

. . . I think I'm quite open to any religions

Although I'm neither an atheist nor a strong believer in God, I think I'm quite open to any religions except some sects. I'm ready to accept their good faith because each has its own teachings and instructions in it.

However, I've seen a few people who think the religion they believe in is superior to others and force people to join their religious group.

As one of those who believe everyone has a right to choose his or her religion, I don't think their way of thinking is right.

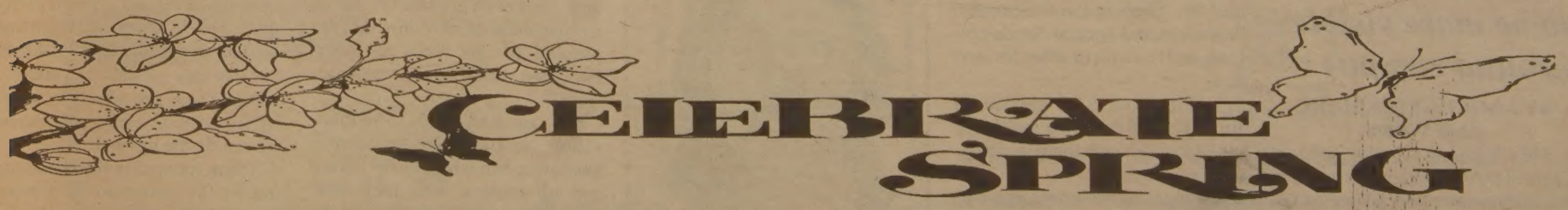
Why do we believe in God and try to have a religion?

My viewpoint and answer is we want to rely on it and seek spiritual relief by believing in a God who exists in different types of religion.

In a democratic and multicultural society like Canada, a variety of lifestyles and thoughts can exist, and everyone is on his or her own path.

In addition, I strongly believe we must also try to respect and understand others and their thoughts with an open mind because everyone can't be the same in leading his or her life.

So my conclusion about this matter is all of us living in modern society have to accept others' beliefs as their own regarless of whether we consider them right or wrong.



SAC

Election '99 Candidates

Glendale Campus Candidates

President
acclaimed

Everett Wright--BA-Accounting

Vice-President of Campus Affairs
acclaimed

Tonya Guthrie--Business Administration

Vice-President of Campus Events

Victor Costiff--BA-Accounting

Jennifer Gaboury--Business Administration

Maid of the Mist Centre Candidates

President
Andrea Fenning--Tourism (Co-op)

Jeremy Harvey--Tourism (Co-op)

Vice-President of Campus Affairs
acclaimed

Stefan Struck--Culinary Skills

Vice-President of Campus Events
Jeff Culbert--Culinary Skills

Richard Denham--Culinary Skills

Tanya Cegnar--Tourism (Co-op)

Welland Campus Candidates

President
Jennifer Beatty--Educational Resources and Special Needs

Daniel MacLean--Broadcasting-Radio, Television, Film

Lee Whitehead--Journalism-Print

Vice-President of Campus Affairs
April Monds--Recreation and Leisure

Patricia Pichette--Human Relations

Vice-President of Campus Events
acclaimed
Brian Durocher--Computer Programmer Analyst

Experience, confidence key to becoming president

By ANGELA PICKERING
Staff Writer

Experience and confidence are leading this candidate to run for a Welland campus student council presidential position.

Daniel MacLean, a first-year student in the Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film program, is impressed with Niagara College and wants to be a part of maintaining the positive momentum.

MacLean says he sees "a lot of good things" happening around the college, especially with the Student Administrative Council (SAC), and feels he can help maintain that success.

"My main objective will be to get people out to participate," says MacLean.

He says once people get involved, they'll appreciate what SAC's all about.

MacLean says he feels he has the experience and expertise to keep SAC running smoothly.

"I'm a real believer in college and I think that the position of president should not be taken lightly."

He says he was a student at Fanshawe College in London, Ont., before coming to Niagara, and "it doesn't even compare" to how well things are run here.

He has a background in politics from Fanshawe, and says he feels that can help him as president. He's confident he can get done what he has to, to make it work.

He knows there have been problems in the past with student participation in the events SAC plans and in the actual voting for positions. He says he has a few ideas to fix that problem next year hoping he can get around the college this week and talk to people about himself and what he can do for the school.

"Stuff trickles down from the top, so if you have a strong president, things will get done, either by example or insisting it get done."

MacLean says no matter what happens, it's important for him just to be participating at this level.

Candidate aiming to make difference as president

By ANGELA PICKERING
Staff Writer

This presidential candidate for Student Administrative Council (SAC) is aiming to make a difference.

Lee Whitehead, a second-year Journalism-Print student, has decided to run for SAC president at Niagara College's Welland campus.

Whitehead, 23, of Delhi, Ont., plans to return next year for the Public Relations (Post-graduate) program. He says running for president was "just an idea" that came to him. He says he knows how SAC operates and has covered the SAC beat for the *Niagara News*.

"I don't think there's ever going to be a perfect president, and there are always going to be people who complain that you're not doing a good enough job, but I plan on doing the best job possible for me," says Whitehead.

When asked about the current SAC, he responded," I feel, for the most part, they've done a good job, but I also believe that there are areas for improvement."

Whitehead says his personality usually allows him to get along with everyone. He also thinks communication is important. If anyone has a problem, he or she shouldn't hesitate to sit down and discuss it with him. He says he's very approachable and is willing to listen to what people have to say.

Beatty looking forward to challenge of presidency

Candidate says council needs to be more visible around campus

BY ANGELA PICKERING
Staff Writer

This Student Administrative Council (SAC) candidate is looking forward to the challenge of being president.

Jen Beatty, 22, had an active part in her high school student council and wants to be part of college politics too. She's in the Educational Resources and Special Needs program and has a lot of ideas for next year.

"I think that SAC should be directly involved with residence and plan to include them in activities," says Beatty.

One big issue she's determined to work on is the events being so focused with the pub.

"So many people are underage when they first come to college and they can't even get into the pub to participate in the activities that are planned. It's not really for them. Everyone should be able to participate."

She says SAC needs to be more visible, so she'd like to set up a table every two weeks by the library and ask students what they want done. She wants feedback from the students because, she says, that's why she's there.

"I don't want students to feel intimidated by SAC. I'm a pretty approachable person and think that anyone who wants to talk, should feel like they can come to me."

Beatty says she admits to wanting the position badly, and knows she can do the job well.

"I look forward to the challenge and let the best man or woman win."

Student Jobs

Employment Services helps find summer jobs

By JEFF BOLAN
Staff Writer

Now is the time for students to begin searching for summer jobs.

Janet Forfar, a consultant with Niagara College's Employment Services, said "watch the newspapers" and "get out now."

She said a lot of local companies are beginning to make their summer employment commitments.

"It's not too early to start searching, and it's not too late," but students shouldn't wait too long before they start searching.

She said one valuable resource is summer job fairs.

"It's always nice if they (students) can find something related to their studies," she said, but most summer jobs in the area are within the service and hospitality industry.

Welland campus has a summer job-postings board located outside the Employment Services office in room SE101.

"We get a large number of postings from children's camps," those with special needs (campers), or more traditional ones.

Janet Forfar, a consultant with Niagara College's Employment Services, works on the summer-job postings board.
Photo by Jeff Bolan

Her advice for students looking for summer employment is to "take it seriously" and "prepare before (you) go out."

She said it's important for students to prepare a résumé, target an area they wish to work in and prepare well for the interview.

"If you want the employer to take you seriously, you must first take yourself seriously."

She said potential employers have access to an interview room within the Employment Services office if they're interested in having on-campus interviews.

"If an employer is keen, we will collect the résumés for them."

The Employment Services office is available to help students find a job. An appointment is necessary.

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Financial assistance offered on Web

Free site for cash-strapped students

By JOSEPH ROWLING
Staff Writer

Cash-strapped students can find relief at studentawards.com.

The new Web site is a comprehensive way of finding awards, scholarships, bursaries, fellowships and grants from universities, colleges, government agencies and private organizations.

"Although many sources of financial aid exist, there is no free 'central clearing house' where students can sort through all the available financial awards in Canada," said Joe Freedman, president of the website, in a press release.

"Our research has shown that thousands of dollars of award money go unclaimed each year, even though many students are in dire need of financial assistance. There is a clear demand for a comprehensive scholarship database."

The site is a free service. It will use corporate sponsorship to pay for it.

"This will enable us to keep the site as a free service to students, in addition to offering products and services that are of interest to them," says Freedman.

There are six steps used to find out about the proper assistance for students. The steps are much like filling out a survey. Students interested in using this service should know some private information must be provided, but the site does guarantee privacy if the student doesn't want things mailed to him or her. The student's address won't be released to companies.

Step one is providing a user name and password. A mailbox is set up in order for matches to be updated. The student must enter a first and last name.

Step two is providing an address and e-mail information. The student's postal and area code is required. The option to be excluded from mailing lists is given here.

Step three is biographical information. Students will be asked date of birth, gender, marital status, citizenship, special needs and circumstance, heritage and background.

Step four is academic and personal information. The student is asked the most recent school level completed, graduate documentation to be obtained, cumulative grade for most recent year, career objectives, hobbies and activities, sports and high school attended.

Step five is general background information. Students are asked about memberships and activities, parent's memberships and activities, specific geographic locations where the student has lived, and other considerations not so easily categorized, such as spoken languages and specific American universities a student may plan to attend.

Step six is waiting for the award matches. This usually takes a few minutes. When this is done the best matches are shown and more specific details about the assistance can be viewed.

Any questions or comments can be sent by letter to 110 Eglinton Ave. E., Suite 701, Toronto, Ont. M4P 2Y1; by telephone (416) 545-1262 and by e-mail to info@studentawards.com.

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Eye On Niagara

Privatization threatening thousands

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

Privatization is threatening the livelihoods of thousands of Canadian public-sector employees.

The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) has released its first annual report on privatization. Published by CUPE, the report is a 60-page document covering the many aspects of what CUPE considers to be a threat to Canadian public services.

The major areas addressed are health care, education and public utilities. The report is a no-holds-barred attack on private corporations. The main focus is on the elimination of public service jobs and the effect it will have on the community.

Robert Fox, director of communications for CUPE, said a lot of people think privatization is a good thing.

"It's being sold by corporations as a good idea," Fox said.

He said CUPE is trying to get people to think about the consequences of privatization and the effect it will have on Canadian public services as a whole.

Fox said privatization is a bad deal for citizens, workers and taxpayers. He said in particular it affects such things as worker safety issues. He added corporations are less accountable than public sector employees and the elected officials who run the services.

He said the public will have less control over their public services as a result.

The report was distributed nationwide to members of Parliament, editorial boards of newspapers, mayors, councils and private sector corporations which are pushing for privatization.

"Corporations are there to make money," he said, adding they answer to their shareholders, not the public.

The report cites many examples of other countries that have struggled with the privatization issue, such as Britain, the United States and New Zealand.

The state of Britain's water service, privatized during the Margaret Thatcher era, was used as an example. The cost of fresh water rose as much as 450 per cent, but an average increase of 67 per cent. Thousands of people were unable to to pay their bill and had their water cut off. As a result, dysentery in Britain increase six-fold and the British Medical Association condemned privatization for its related medical risks.

Fox said corporations are focused on making money, not on improving or maintaining services to the public.

"Corporations get more and more wealthy and the citizens get less and less services."

Fox said this report is the beginning of a campaign against privatization.

"We're trying to connect the dots," Fox said, adding it isn't just about health, education and water but about what privatization means to these services and how it will affect the public.

The report was funded through union dues, said Fox. The research was gathered from the Provincial Auditors General offices, but the compiling of information, the publishing and the distribution was carried out by the union.

Youth justice changing

By AARON BEAUDOIN
Staff Writer

The federal government has introduced plans to replace the much- maligned Young Offenders Act (YOA) with the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

Minister of Justice Anne McLellan announced the youth justice law on March 11, more than nine months after a call to bring forward new legislation to replace the act put in place in 1983.

"Canadians want a youth justice system that protects society and instills values such as accountability, responsibility and respect," said McLellan in a government news release. "They want governments to help prevent youth crime in the first place and make sure there are meaningful consequences when it occurs. The new Youth Criminal Justice Act is designed to help achieve these goals."

As part of Ottawa's effort to "get tough" on young offenders who commit serious crimes, the act would permit adult sentences for any youth aged 14 to 17 who is convicted of an offence that carries a penalty of more than two years in jail. The age drops two years from its original 16, in the YOA.

As well, it will permit the publication of the names of all youth who receive an adult sentence including the names of 14- to 15-year-olds who receive a youth sentence for murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, aggravated assault and repeat serious violent offences.

The act would involve parents by punishing them for failure to properly supervise youth who have been denied bail and placed in their care. Provinces are permitted to hold parents or youth who have the ability to pay for legal expenses responsible for doing so.

"Changes to the law are important, but we need to look at the big picture," said McLellan. "Are our children being taught the skills and values they need to succeed? Can we help families and communities do more to support young people or address early behaviour problems? The Government of Canada is working on these important issues with its provincial and territorial partners in order to find effective, sustainable solutions."

The proposed legislation has drawn criticism from people like Reform MP Chuck Cadman who said it has "a lot of loopholes."

The act is personal to Cadman. His son was killed in October 1992 by a young offender. He said implementing the law the way it stands would be singling out four offences. "What happened to sexual assault with a weapon?"

He said the majority of Canadians would like to see the age dropped to 10, adding he will "certainly bring that to the people" in the future.

Unknown man sought

On Sunday, Jan. 24, a 73-year-old Welland woman was walking on Parkway Avenue in Welland.

Upon approaching Manor Drive, the woman was pushed from behind by an unknown male. Although the man grabbed the woman's purse, she continued to clutch it as he dragged her for a short distance. The male succeeded in getting the purse and proceeded to flee on foot with the victim's black purse. No medical attention was required for the victim.

The suspect is described as a white male, five feet four inches tall with a heavy build and about 15 or 16 years old. He has short dark hair and a round face. He was seen wearing a black waist-length coat and black pants. A battered orange Honda was also sighted in the area around the same time as the incident.

The Niagara Regional Police are appealing to the public to come forward with any information about this incident. Contact Crime Stoppers of Niagara at 1-800-222-TIPS. All calls remain totally anonymous. Callers do not have to testify in court. Crime Stoppers does not subscribe to call display. Money is rewarded to those callers whose tips result in arrests.

The Niagara Regional Police Service in co-operation with Crime Stoppers of Niagara Inc., writes this column to help combat crime. A citizen board administers the local program. Reward money is raised through tax deductible donations. Cheques may be sent to Crime Stoppers of Niagara Inc., P.O. Box 1086, St. Catharines, ON L2R 7A3.

Niagara College offers professional, confidential counselling, health and peer services.
Resources are available in SE102, Welland campus; W102 at Glendale campus.
Health Centre services are provided by Registered Nurses
Carolyn Hurst, Welland campus L20 or Christine Philbrick, Glendale W105.

Work with me here.

The YMCA of Greater Toronto is hiring Senior Staff for many of its Summer Day Camps. Interested applicants living in the GTA for the summer are invited to fax or mail their resume and cover letter with current phone number to:

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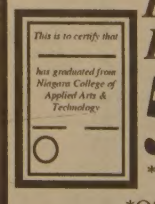

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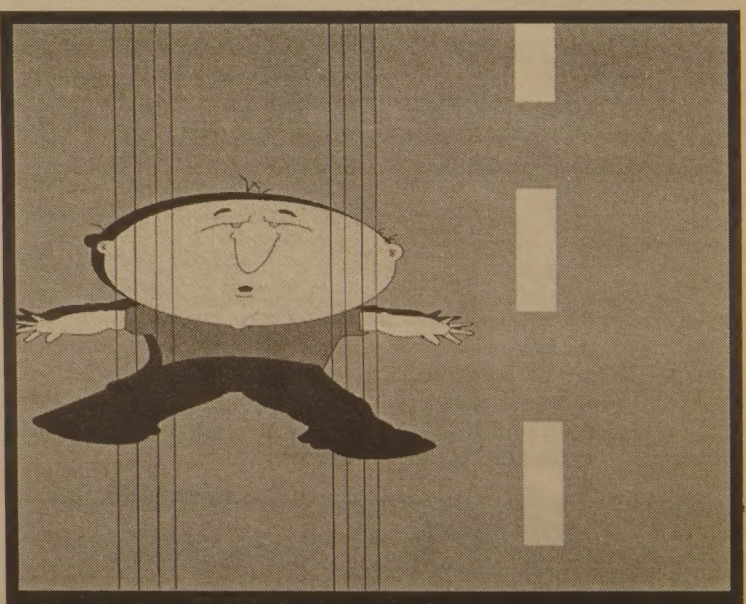


Don't let deadlines run you over.
Get your projects done and handed in on time.

International Day

Food, music, sample fare

By MÉLANIE BLAIS
Staff Writer

NIAGARA FALLS — The opportunity for students to share their culture and develop a mutual understanding and appreciation of cultures was part of International Day at the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls.

The traditions of Japan, Korea, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, Slovenia and the Philippines were displayed in the foyer at Niagara College's Maid of the Mist Centre, with samples of food, music and more on Tuesday.

Boeter Koek (butter cake) from the Netherlands, Napolitanke cookies from Slovenia, Swedish meatballs from Sweden and Shanghai fried rice from the Philippines were some of the samples available for the public to try.

Students Robling Johnson and Isofina Leonte helped Bruce McNiven, professor, organize International Day.

Johnson said the event was "very good, very successful."

Leonte said not too many students were aware of the event over the years, but she told students at the campus to tell family and friends of the event.

She said that's why the event turned out so well.

Holland offers more than just cheese

Cathy Top (left) and Monica Smid stand behind their Holland display.

Photo by Mélanie Blais

This was full a minute ago

Rose Santiago serves samples of Lumpia (egg roll), Lumpia Sauce and Shanghai Fried Rice from the Philippines.

Photo by Mélanie Blais

Origami anyone?

Soichi Mamiya shows students how to make Japanese origamis.

Photo by Mélanie Blais

Wait, I'm not done . . .

Tanya Cegnar shows off her Slovenia display and samples of Napolitanke Cookies.

Photo by Mélanie Blais

Service with a smile

Kana Kurata serves Niku Jaga and Red Bean Rice as part of the Japanese display.

Photo by Mélanie Blais

One bowl or two?

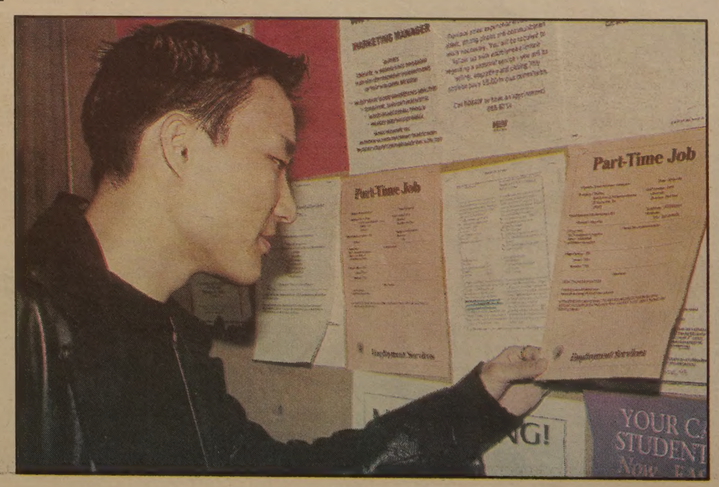
Jenny Jung (left) and Sung Jun Edward Kim serve Chapch'ae and Kimbab as part of the Korean display.

Photo by Mélanie Blais

Gettin' A Job!

Photos by Sean Coffey, Jodi Gierling, Melinda Spurvey, Marni Anderson, Mun-Hee Shin

Thanks to Job Gym sponsored by YACES



International

Sisters meet dedicating their lives to God

By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

After dedicating their lives to God, Sister Elisabeth Norina and Sister Kristina Ance, both of Indonesia, became friends.

They met when Sister Elisabeth joined the convent in Indonesia.

Now six years later, the two sisters have come to Canada to study in Niagara College's English as a Second Language (ESL) program.

They're in Level 1 of the program and are trying hard to understand the language.

Sister Kristina, 28, and Sister Elisabeth, 29, live in St. Catharines with three other sisters. Two are from the Philippines and the other is from Colombia.

According to the nuns, their day starts off at 4:45 a.m., when they awaken and go to the chapel to pray. They then leave their house at 7 a.m. and go to a Catholic Church for mass.

Their school day starts at 8 a.m., and they're there till 6 or 6:30 p.m., when their classes finish.

Living in St. Catharines, they needed transportation to classes. Sister Kristina said for three days they rode the bus, but "it was cold."

She said another sister who lives with them "drives us to school."

At 8 p.m., they attend an evening prayer, which Sister Elisabeth said usually takes place at 6. Since they're at school, they pray later.

When 9 o'clock rolls around, they return to the chapel for their night prayer. At 10:30 p.m., they retire to bed, although in some cases that time is extended to 11.

At their house, Sister Elisabeth said they do all the cooking and cleaning for themselves.

The two sisters are used to their daily routine and believe "God chose us for a reason" to help others.

Sister Kristina said, "When I was in secondary school I saw a sister. She looked very holy. I heard about their life and wanted to follow and feel God."

"Jesus called to me."

She went on to say, "If I didn't become a nun, I would probably marry and then could only love one person," but she said life as a nun has enabled her to "love and help everyone."

Sister Elisabeth couldn't identify one particular moment when she heard His calling, but said "it was a long time ago."

"I believe God chose me to follow His ways through work with people who need me. I really like it and am happy."

The two have dedicated their lives to God. Sister Kristina said she feels bad if she doesn't like something and has to "smile" anyway.

In Indonesia, the convent they live in is home to about 100 sisters.

Sister Kristina said the convent is divided into 14 communities where the work is divided among the sisters.

Sister Elisabeth was chosen to work in the St. Joseph's community at the Retreat House. She helps young children prepare for their first communion.

"(We) teach them how to pray, how to recognize God, and how to make life better."

Sister Kristina, on the other hand, is in the Maria Madelina community where she works at the Catholic hospital in their convent. She helps unwed mothers look after their babies.

"Mothers sometimes go to school. (We) help raise the babies or help find people to adopt them."

Sister Elisabeth said they don't select which community they want to work in. "Mother Superior picks it for us."

Both students are easily recognizable in their religious habits and veils, yet Sister Elisabeth says, "(I) don't get tired of wearing the same thing."

She said the habits are worn because they convey a meaning, which is to "remember Jesus."

On their habits, they wear a symbol which says "Jesuxpi Passio."

Before they could become nuns, they had to study theology, which is about God.

They started as aspirants, the first level of becoming a nun. It lasts one year, at the end of which a test is given. If the aspirant passes, then she moves on to the next level, which is postulant. That too, Sister Elisabeth said, is one year and a test must be taken at the end.

If the two levels are completed successfully, the women become novices for two years.

Sister Kristina and Sister Elisabeth have completed the levels and are now juniors.

She said when she started seven years ago her group consisted of 15 aspiring nuns but over the years the number has dwindled to seven.

Throughout life in the convent, the nuns get a three-week vacation every three years. They can go home to visit families and friends if they wish.

Although they are hundreds of miles away from their families, Sister Kristina said she misses them "sometimes, but I don't really have a chance to think about them."

Sister Kristina (left) and sister Elisabeth are Level 1 students in the English as a Second Language program.
Photo by Jackie Field

"I keep all of them in my heart. (They are) far, but near in my heart."

Sister Elisabeth said she "misses" them, but doesn't think of them that often.

Sister Kristina said once a month they go to confession, which sometimes takes place at the church or their convent.

They also observe a recollection day monthly, which Sister Elisabeth said "is a day of silence."

"It is to focus on our life and to pray," said Sister Kristina.

Once a year the convent has a one-week retreat allowing the nuns to talk one-on-one with the accompanying priest, and in groups.

Sister Kristina said it doesn't necessarily take place at the convent, and it allows them to focus on their life and the work they do for God.

Besides the Niagara Region, the only other place they've visited in Canada was the Passionist Sisters headquarters in Toronto.

Sister Kristina and Sister Elisabeth spent a week with the other sisters there at Christmas.

The sisters plan to continue their studies at Niagara College after they've completed the ESL program.

Both would like to enrol in the Child and Youth Worker program.

Before they came to Canada, they studied English for three months in the Philippines.

They said they "really like" the program here.

Sister Elisabeth said, "(I feel) very connected with the teachers in my classes."

Not only does she like the teachers and the classes, but she said Canada "is a nice country and has kind people."

Jordan's royal system questioned

By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

The new king of Jordan is ....

A little over a month ago, King Hussein bin Talal, 63, of Jordan, who was the king for 47 years, died of cancer.

Just days before he died, King Hussein appointed his eldest son, Prince Abdullah, as the new heir to the throne.

But what of King Hussein's brother Hassan?

Hassan, 51, in 1965, was appointed to be the crown prince because Hussein had no adult sons at the time.

Citizens have differing views on the leadership changes. Baher Mustafa, 19, of Jordan, an English as a Second Language student at Niagara College, said "because of the royal system the son should be the king, not the brother. That's just the system."

Mustafa agrees with the decision a son should be the heir to the throne.

The new king, who is 37 years old, was an army general, and was thought to be second choice to be king.

BAHER MUSTAFA

Queen Noor, 47, King Hussein's fourth wife and now widow, wanted their son, Prince Hamzeh, 18, as the new king.

Why would Hamzeh have been considered as king, when there are two other princes in succession before him?

King Hussein made it no secret that Prince Hamzeh was his "favourite."

Although all of Jordan may not know what to think about the newly appointed king, Mustafa said Abdullah was a "good choice" because "his first language is English not Arabic."

With English as Abdullah's native language, he can communicate with Jordan and other countries.

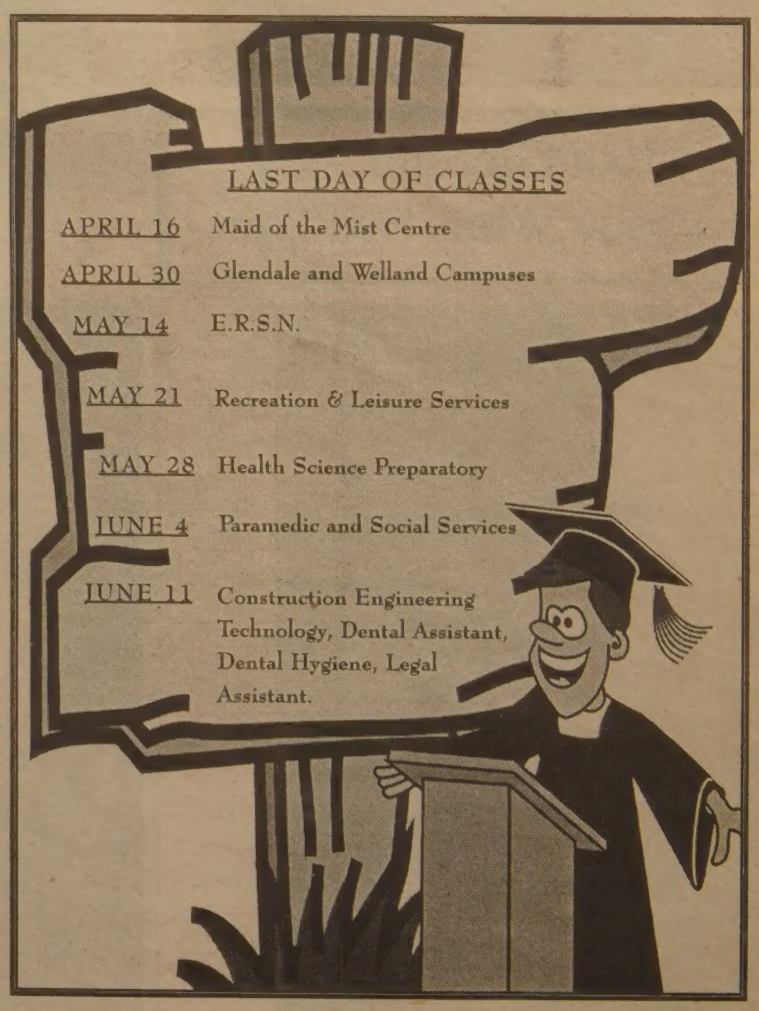
Mustafa doesn't believe there will be any future problems in the family over the choice of king, but before Hussein's death there was talk Crown Prince Hassan would take over the leadership as king.

The only stipulation was to have been that one of Hussein's sons was to become the new crown prince, in particular, Prince Hamzeh.

Although Mustafa does not reside in his own country, he stays in close contact with his family and friends. He says, "Yes, I think (King Abdullah) will do a good job."

According to a recent article in *Newsweek*, many Jordanians aren't sure what to feel about the new king, but Mustafa said, "(I) hope the new king is like his father."

Mustafa said "of course, people are sad" over the recent death of King Hussein, but added he hopes King Abdullah will be able to follow in his father's footsteps.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MAY 28 Health Science Preparatory
JUNE 4 Paramedic and Social Services
JUNE 11 Construction Engineering Technology, Dental Assistant, Dental Hygiene, Legal Assistant.

International

Open Learning Centre for ESL students

By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

Niagara College's English as a Second Language (ESL) students now have one-on-one help with mastering their English.

At the Welland campus's Hennepin Hall, room 30, the Open Learning Centre and Distance Learning room, a work station is set up to help students.

Carole Rogers, a centre worker, said the computer has been available for a few months but they "just recently started using it."

Rogers said there is one computer equipped with the CD ROM Clear Speech Works, but more stations won't be provided until there is a need.

"An average of about three students per week," Rogers said, use the facility.

Mieko Yokota, 28, of Japan, said she's used the program three times.

"It's good individual work. In class, the teacher can't correct everyone because of the class size, (so here) students can correct themselves."

She finds the program has helped "improve" her English, and said not many people know about it.

To start in the program you enter your first and last name, your student number and your native language.

You select your language from the given list and click done.

After you've registered once, you need only type in your student identification number to use Clear Speech Works.

The program has personalized lesson plans for various languages and gives students recommended lists of lessons to work on.

The work station is number 15, and comes with head phones and a volume adjuster.

Susan Vandenboom, ESL coordinator, said "the Clear Speech Works program helps target the students' individual abilities."

Rogers said there is "lots of available time."

She said "students should call ahead of time" to book the time slot they'd like.

The Open Learning Centre is available weekdays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

According to Rogers, Saturdays is the day students like to come in.

The Clear Speech Works program was copyrighted in 1996 and 1998 by Trinity Software Northeastern University.

Mieko Yokota improves her English skills as she works in the Clear Works program in the Open Learning Centre, in Hennepin Hall, room 30.

Photo by Jackie Field

Niagara a learning resource

By MUN-HEE SHIN
Staff Writer

With its long educational and vocational history in the Niagara Region, Niagara College is an example of a learning resource for China.

Eight representatives from the Institute of Vocational Technology (IVT) of the Suzhou Industrial Park (SIP) in China recently visited Niagara.

The welcoming ceremony was held at the Hennepin Hall of the college's Welland campus on March 15.

There were about 20 participants, including Dan Patterson, president of the college, Hans van der Slagt, vice-president of the administrative services, Jos Nolle, director of the international education department, and Nancy McDonald, the International Trade program student, who went to China and dealt with this group as a delegation from the college.

Dinghong Gu, 39, of China, president of the IVT, said, through an interpreter, the purpose of their visit to the college is "to learn about the college's curriculum and the Niagara Region through the partnership and the co-operation."

An agreement to develop the SIP was signed by the Chinese and Singaporean governments on Feb. 26, 1994.

The SIP is in the eastern part of Souzhou and is known for its importance as a major industrial city in China.

More than $24.4 billion U.S. of contracted foreign investment and $10.7 billion U.S. of utilized capital was attracted to Suzhou in the last five years.

In addition, the SIP has a strong human resource base with about one million industrial workers.

According to Gu, the IVT focuses on two points through this partnership with Niagara College.

One is for the IVT the college could be a "learning resource" with its 30 years of educational history and experience as the vocational and technological institute.

The other is the "international co-operation" through the college, which has more than 100 international students from throughout the world.

"One of the most succesful and biggest investors in the world for the IVT is the Sam Sung company of South Korea," said Gu, adding its total investment is more than $300 million U.S.

"The Chinese economy is growing rapidly," said Gu.

He said there's a growing desire on the part of the students who want to learn more about outside China and learn advanced technology by exploring the potential co-operation with Niagara.

"I also want to create an opportunity for our students to be sent over to pursue their studies at Niagara College."

Dinghong Gu hands over a gift from China to Dan Patterson at the ceremony.

Photo by Mun-Hee Shin

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Entertainment

Comics surprisingly treated to friendly audience

By SHARILYN JOHNSON
Staff Writer

"It's like f——— Vietnam."

Kevin Fox was telling his March 10 Niagara College audience of their reputation among the comedians who have faced them.

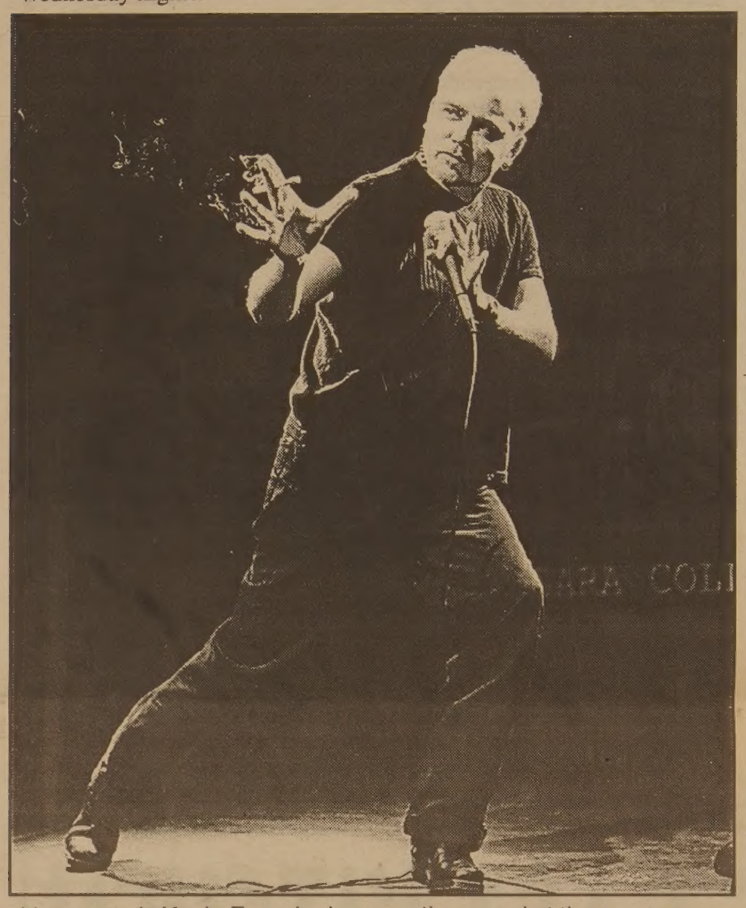
The talent that has passed through the doors of the campus pub — some of the best Canada has to offer — often faces chatty, apathetic or downright rude audiences on Wednesday nights.

Before his set, Fox, 29, seemed unfazed by the reputation.

"You never give up on an audience," he said.

"A bad audience is like getting a bad hand at poker. You think a good hand is just around the corner, so you keep playin', playin', and hopefully you aren't bankrupt at the end."

Fox, from Vancouver, had driven in from Toronto for the evening to face a crowd known to be difficult. On top of it all, he was "sick as a dog."



Vancouver's Kevin Fox winning over the crowd at the campus pub March 10.

Photo by Sharilyn Johnson

"If this were a regular job, you'd be like 'I'll just call in sick,'" he said. "But that's how much I love comedy. I'm actually looking forward to this because it gives me the chance to get up in front of people and hopefully bring some levity into their lives."

Jason Rouse, 27, was second on the bill.

He's starring in an independent film called *Whipping Boy* (http://www.gutlevel.com/whip). His character is listed as "weather mime."

"It's half finished," he said. "We're just waiting on some people who can put a bit more money into it."

Surprisingly, the crowd at the pub didn't live up to its reputation. People were unusually attentive, which gave the room a more intimate feel than past comedy nights.

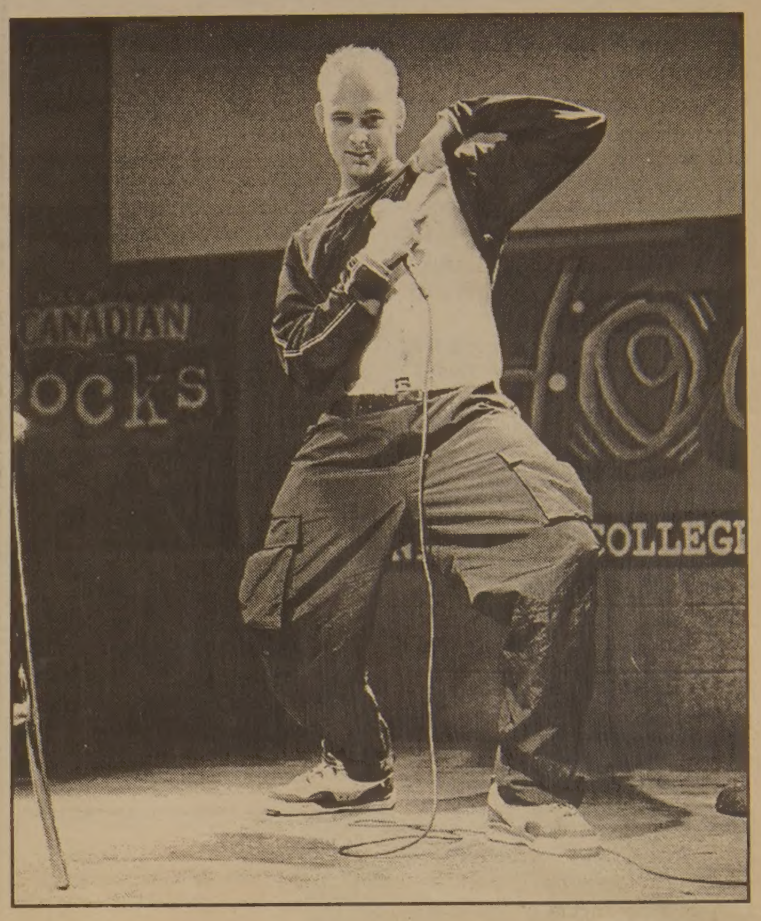
Fox talked about relationships and getting older, to which the young crowd responded well.

Nearing the end of his 40 minutes, he asked the audience what they wanted to talk about. Inevitably, someone yelled out "sex!" Fox didn't give in to the suggestion, a refreshing change from what usually happens in that situation.

Rouse, who looks more suited to fronting a punk band than doing standup, used edgy material that at times bordered on shock humour. One trick saw him inhale a condom through his nose and pull the other end through his mouth so he could move it back and forth like dental floss.

What made Rouse unique was the inclusion of self-depecating humour. The mix made him oddly likeable and frightening at the same time.

He ended his performance by showing a home movie of a performance he did with the Comedy Network's Tom Green at the Rivoli in Toronto. The film was basically 10 minutes of vomiting.



Jason Rouse strikes a provocative pose for his After Hours audience.

Photo by Sharilyn Johnson

It tipped the scales — which he had spent 40 minutes successfully balancing — onto the "frightening" side. Some of the audience responded well; the rest sat quietly.

Rouse is talented and shows a lot of promise, but he'd have been better off if he'd left the tape at home.

Small town atmosphere makes story believable

By AMY KAAL
Staff Writer

A small-town author writes about what else? A small town.

Billie Letts' *Where the Heart Is,* published by Warner Books, is one read you won't soon forget.

The book centres around Novalee Nation. She is a pregnant 17-year-old abandoned by her boyfriend at an out of town Wal-Mart with only $7.77 in her pocket.

But the little town of Sequoyah, Okla., has many people to help disillusioned Novalee.

Sister Thelma Husband is a church woman who takes Novalee in with no questions asked and gives Novalee something she's never had before, a family and stability.

Forney Hull is the local librarian who teaches Novalee to love and to feel worthy of love.

Moses Whitecotton is the older man who gives Novalee priceless advice.

Then there is Novalee's daughter Americus, her true love, who lights up the lives of the all Sequoyah's characters.

There is a reading group guide with questions and answers

What makes this story believable is the small-town atmosphere. The characters seem so real you feel you could actually run into them at Wal-Mart.

At the back of the book there is a reading group guide with questions and answers with Letts, discussion questions and a autobiography by Letts.

This book will leave you feeling that home is, truly, where the heart is.

New album likely to be successful

By NOELLE STAPINSKY
Staff Writer

Finger Eleven has a new piercing release with many tempo changes allowing it to proudly compare itself with 1990s' mainstream music.

Finger Eleven, of Burlington, Ont., was originally formed in 1994 under the name Rainbow Butt Monkeys. A talent search with a radio station there led the band to a recording deal with Mercury Canada and a 1995 release called **Letters From Chutney.**

Finger Eleven write their own songs and have made quite a name for themselves as a young band.

When they adopted the name Finger Eleven, they started writing songs for their new album called **Tip**. The band locked themselves in a cottage north of Toronto to write the songs. When the tracks were completed they were produced and recorded with Arnold Lanni, who also worked with Our Lady Peace and King's X.

Their new album, **Tip**, resembles the products from ever-popular entertainer Korn and the melodic/strong tempo of The Smashing Pumpkins.

Some songs on the album are heavy with the vocals of a newer heavy metal sound and the musical construction shows levels of well displayed harmonic chords.

The new album is a lot like many of the newly released albums of the past few years. It isn't strikingly new or different but it's going to herald a success.

If you like the generic alternative band with a flair for melodic emotion, this album is great.

It ranks a seven out of 10.

Movies

8mm of intensity

Nicholas Cage stars in porn industry flick

By JOSEPH ROWLING
Staff Writer

In a time when movies have been boring and . . . well, bad . . . *8mm* is a good, intense movie.

An old woman whose husband has recently died is shocked to discover what appears to be a snuff film in his private safe. For those who don't know what a snuff film is, it's a porno film in which a woman is beaten, raped and then brutally murdered, often by a man who looks like an ogre.

The woman hires detective Tom Welles (Nicholas Cage) to investigate the matter and find out if the girl really was murdered or if it was just an act.

Welles goes to Los Angeles to investigate the matter, right to the heart of the porno industry. He meets Max California (Joaquin Phoenix), a young man who works at a porno store. California doesn't exactly love the work he does. He's in it for the money.

California tries to warn Welles of the dangers of the industry and tells him to go back where he came from.

"You dance with the devil, the devil doesn't change. The devil changes you," says California to Welles.

As Welles tries to find out more about the film, he learns of how low the industry can go. Men who sell videos of rape and brutality are disgusted by the mention of a snuff film. One man pulls a gun on California and threatens his life.

The film brilliantly depicts the shadowy underworld of the porno industry. It shows the bad, worse and totally sick, disgusting levels of the industry and human nature.

The relationships between Welles and California are great. Cage and Phoenix were meant for each other in this film.

As the movie proceeds and everything goes wrong, Welles gets pulled into a web of revenge. When the devil changes him, he finds himself fighting with his conscience and crossing the line between right and wrong.

For those who plan to see the film, there is a warning of extreme violence and torture. The warnings are right on. This movie is not for the faint of heart.

I give this film an eight out of 10.

EDtv a summer rerun

Film bears striking resemblance to '98 blockbuster

By SHARILYN JOHNSON
Staff Writer

A man is followed by video cameras and becomes the subject of a highly rated 24-hour cable television show about his everyday life.

Now where could we have seen this before?

If you're thinking *Truman Show* you're right.

EDtv, which was put into production as *The Truman Show* was wrapping up, is the critically acclaimed film's not-so-distant cousin. It has countless similarities and only two big differences.

Ed Pekurny (Matthew McConaughey) knows he is on television. In fact, he auditioned for the opportunity, so it is hard to feel sympathy towards him when conflict arises.

The other difference is *EDtv* is a comedy. The screenplay was written by Lowell Ganz and Babaloo Mandel, one of Hollywood's greatest comedy writing teams. They were behind films like *City Slickers* and *A League of Their Own*, and churned out a great script for *EDtv*.

It's incredibly funny and not too predictable. The storyline is intriguing with enough twists to string the audience along.

McConaughey is not easily recognizable, so he's a great choice to play a guy picked from obscurity.

Woody Harrelson, Jenna Elfman, Rob Reiner, Ellen DeGeneres and Martin Landau make up the supporting cast. Their experience with comedy adds to the film's strength.

EDtv is worth watching, but next to *The Truman Show*, it looks like a wristwatch bought from a shady guy in a trenchcoat. It's not a real Rolex, but it runs well enough to do the job.

The best plan of action would be to space the two films out. If you've seen *The Truman Show* on video, *EDtv* is a good rental bet. If you haven't seen Truman since it was in theatres—or at all—*EDtv* is worth spending your theatre dollars on.

How the two films compare:

The Truman Show	EDtv
•Harry Shearer plays the host of a TV program that focuses on *The Truman Show*.	•Harry Shearer plays the moderator of a TV discussion panel program that focuses on *EDtv*.
•Ed Harris plays the ruthless producer Christof, determined to keep *The Truman Show* on the air.	•Rob Reiner plays the ruthless producer Dr. Whitaker, determined to keep *EDtv* on the air.
•Truman's true love, Sylvia, watches him on TV from her home in Hollywood.	•Ed's true love, Shari, watches him on TV from her home in Eugene, OR.
•Movie sprinkled with shots of average Americans watching *The Truman Show* at from home, at work, and in a restaurant.	•Movie sprinkled with shots of average Americans watching *EDtv* from home, at work, and in a restaurant.
•Includes scene of Truman being reunited with his father, who was presumed dead.	•Includes scene of Ed being reunited with his father, who had divorced Ed's mother.
•Prompts questions regarding ethics of exploiting a life on television.	•Prompts questions regarding ethics of exploiting a life on television.

Film takes flight with special effects

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

He's gone from the computer screen to the big screen.

Director Chris Roberts makes his motion picture directing debut with *Wing Commander*. The movie is based on the popular computer video game series of the same name, which Roberts created.

Wing Commander is set in the year 2564 at a time when the human race is embroiled in a bitter war with an alien race known as the Kilrathi.

Of course, no action movie would be complete without a hero. Freddie Prinze Jr. (*She's All That*) stars as Christopher Blair, a fresh-from-the-Academy fighter jock whose genetic background gives him a special feel for space and time.

Mathew Lillard (*Scream*) stars as Todd "Maniac" Marshall, Blair's reckless cohort from the Academy. The beautiful Saffron Burrows (*Circle of Friends*) is Jeanette "Angel" Deveraux, the squadron wing commander who must balance her leadership ability against her feelings for Blair.

The movie boasts the latest in special effects including more than 250 digital effects shots that have been integrated with live action film.

The simple plot line is driven by the action and special effects. Roberts has managed to recreate some of that *Star Wars* magic, which turns ordinary science fiction into a fun and entertaining cinematic experience.

This is a good movie to take the family to as long as you don't mind a little violence, for it is sure to have the kids running about the house hunting down their own aliens for weeks after they see it.

I think this one's worth seeing in the theatre just for its ear-smashing digital sound and dazzling special effects alone. I give it four out of five stars.

On the catwalk

The second Change the Future Fashion Show was held on March 17 at Front 54 in Thorold. The charity show, organized by Linden Barrett, 21, a second-year Human Relations student, didn't make enough to cover the costs of putting it on.

Photo by Sean Coffey

Sports

Skills on display at volleyball all-star game

By BARBARA DODDY
and LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writers

Niagara College had a bit of its own March Madness last weekend.

On Saturday, March 13, Niagara College played host to the Ontario College Athletic Association's (OCAA) all-star games.

With lots of spectators on hand, the men gave the crowd quite a show.

During the skills competition, the men hit hard and jumped high. Four members from the East and West teams participated in passing, serving and spiking drills and they didn't disappoint.

Captain of the Niagara men's volleyball team, Kerby Bentley, was one of Niagara's two representatives to the all-star game and playing for the West team. The other representative was the team's setter, Cuneyt Akgol.

Bentley, 22, a Hotel and Restaurant Management (Co-op) program student, says all-star games are hard because of the selection process.

"The way the process is you can send 10,000 powers, 10,000 middles and have no setters. You can get a whole team of one position."

He says he'd like to see the process change next year.

Bentley says the games aren't always easy because "you spend most of the year hating these guys and then you've got to play with them."

All differences aside, Bentley and the West side couldn't pull off more than one win against the East.

The East took the match with set scores of 15-13, 15-7, but lost the last set 9-15.

This was Bentley's second all-star game appearance, although this was the first game that he had played in.

"Last year I got injured and I practiced with the team but didn't play."

Bentley showed his stuff in his game with four kills and one stuffed block for the West team.

The Knights' season ended just before the break during a trip to Ottawa to play in the Provincial Championship tournament.

They lost in the semi-finals to Belleville's Loyalist College, who went on to beat Etobicoke's Humber College, Niagara's sore spot all season, in the finals.

"We just came up short and it gets frustrating after that," says Bentley.

He says he hopes to be back next season to help the team take another crack at a provincial championship.

Members of the Ontario College Athletic Association's East All-Star team practice with each other for the first time before last Saturday's games.

Photo by Barbara Doddy

Akgol, 22, a second-year Business Operations Management program student, says the all-star festivities were a good experience.

He says it was fun "to interact with other players, especially the good players in the OCAA."

Akgol says when he first learned of his all-star selection he was "happy about going, but I was kind of upset because our team was pretty good and each player could have been an all-star player."

He says he'd like to come back for another season of volleyball but his co-op program might prevent him from playing until the second half of the season.

Collins, Stenton were college volleyball all-stars

By AMY KAAL
Staff Writer

The all-stars came to Niagara College.

The men's and women's volleyball all-star games were held at the college on March 13.

The women's game was at 12:30 p.m. and their skills competition was held afterwards.

There were two teams. The East team had players from Durham, Royal Military, Loyalist, Cambrian, Algonquin, Sir Sandford Fleming, Seneca and Canadore colleges. The West team had players from Humber, Niagara, Redeemer, Confederation, St. Clair, Lambton, Mohawk, Sault St. Marie, Georgian and Sheridan colleges.

Representing Niagara on the West team were Liana Collins, power position, and Michelle Stenton, power position.

Stenton, 23, of Chatham, says, "It was a good level of competition. It was a lot higher than I thought it would be."

The East all-stars won all three games 15-13, 15-9 and 15-3. Collins had one service ace and Stenton had two kills.

Collins, 21, of Midland, says the game was "really fun. It was fun to get together with girls you play against."

Collins played a more defensive position in the all-star game. She says it was a bit confusing and "it's hard to get used to the girls at first but once you get rolling, it's just fun."

'It was a good level of competition.' — Michelle Stenton

Coaching the East team was Brock Kalef from Nepean's Algonquin College and Dale Beausoleil from Sudbury's Cambrian College. West coaches were Dave Hood from Etobicoke's Humber College, Carolyn Schatz from Welland's Niagara College and Bob Cholette from Oakville's Sheridan College.

In the skills competition, Collins participated in two events, passing and spiking. Stenton participated in one, passing.

"I was glad to get to do two things," says Collins.

Stenton says the skills competition was "a little tiring, right after the game. Having it before the game would have been a better idea."

Niagara women's volleyball team finished their season third in the West Conference division.

Asked about the women's season ending in a loss in the semi-finals, Stenton says it was "a little disappointing in the end. We were expecting to go to the provincials and maybe even doing quite well there."

Collins is one of the top five players in the West division.

For the season, Collins played 12 matches and 49 games. She had 150 kills, six stuffed blocks and 26 service aces. She averaged 3.7 points a game.

Collins says she's not sure if she'll be returning next year. "I am graduating and I'm keeping my options open."

Michelle Stenton, women's volleyball all-star, goes up for a kill during the game on March 13 at the college.

Photo by Amy Kaal

All-star women's volleyball player Liana Collins goes up for a kill during the skills competition at the game on March 13.

Photo by Amy Kaal

Sports

Niagara Knights conquer soccer Regionals

By ROBIN MORAIS
Staff Writer

Sandro Perruzza is on top of the world.

The Niagara College men's indoor soccer coach told the Niagara News he felt "fantastic" about his team's victory in the recently concluded men's regional indoor soccer tournament held at Ancaster's Redeemer College.

Perruzza, who has been the Niagara Knights' soccer coach for the last four seasons, said what made him feel even better was that the team won the tournament with only half of the squad.

"Some of the players couldn't make it to the competition because of injury, scheduling problems and the freak winter storm which hit us that weekend.

"We had to use one player at a time, specifically with one goalie and seven or eight players, we had no subs available."

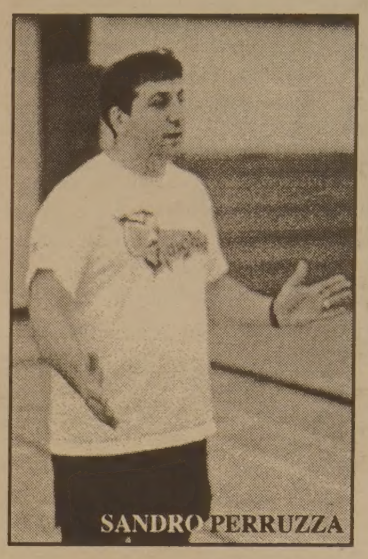
He said at times the team barely had two lines.

Perruzza said the bad weather was not much help because it took two hours for the team buses to drive to Ancaster.

"It was a very stressful drive to get up there."

Perruzza, an avid soccer fan, said the secret of his team's success was disciplined teamwork and everybody scoring crucial goals at vital times.

"We played very disciplined and everybody scored at least one goal,


SANDRO PERRUZZA

even the defence scored as well," the elated Perruzza said.

He said both Niagara goalkeepers were "phenomenal."

Asked which opposing team gave Niagara the hardest fight, he said Etobicoke's Humber College, describing it as "our toughest game."

The men's team beat their opponents 7-6 in the final match to emerge as regional champions.

Perruzza said Niagara scored four goals in at least three minutes, which rocked Humber back on their heels.

He said their rivals scored through "lucky breaks," which made the score closer but it was not a true reflection of how Niagara dominated the game.

He said two of the goals were the result of controversial penalties.

"One penalty shouldn't have been given because the foul by the Knights' player occurred outside of the penalty area and the second penalty was also questionable because the Knights player unintentionally handled the ball inside of the penalty area."

Perruzza said the Humber player kicked the ball against the hand of a Niagara player who was trying to get it out of the way of the ball.

"But the team played with a lot of heart."

He said it was a joint team effort which won them the tournament.

"I told them from the very first practice that what's going to win the regionals for them is that they played very well with their hearts and heads."

Perruzza said he was "hard pressed to pick out anyone in particular who was outstanding during the competition because the team played incredibly well.

However from an offensive standpoint, he said Mark Saccucci was "very good" because he scored six goals in the tournament, while defensively Ryan Nava and the team captain Felice Taddeo were exceptional.

Perruzza explained the team used a smart tactic during the tournament.

He said this tactic was called a triangle system, which means two defencemen and one midfielder position themselves in a triangle formation at the top of the penalty box.

As a result, this prevented the opposing teams from launching penetrating attacks into the centre of the Niagara goal area, and it forced the opposition to take long range shots at the Niagara's goal, which the defence handled well.

"This system worked phenomenally well."

Perruzza said since he has been coaching the men's team, Niagara has been coming in as one of the top two teams in the Western Ontario Collegiate Athletic Association Region.

However, he said this year was his last year as college coach because of his family commitments. He said he does not know who will be taking over after he gives up his post.

Asked if he has enjoyed his time as the men's indoor college soccer coach, he said "yes, immensely and if it wasn't for other commitments, I'll still be doing it."

He thanked Ray Sarkis, Niagara's assistant athletic director, for supporting him during his coaching tenure.

Perruzza said it is time Niagara had an outdoor soccer team.

"With the amount of soccer talent at Niagara, they should have an outdoor soccer squad, especially if the money is there, so they should invest in such a team for the outdoor college competitions."

He said over the long run this would develop the standard of the game within the college.

"Also, a lot of good players don't like indoor soccer and they prefer outdoor soccer because it has more action."

He said his players would love to represent Niagara in an outdoor college tournament and "they should be given the chance to do so."

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Athletic prowess awards, banquet set for March 30

Hall of Fame not till Fall

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

Niagara College is set to honour its athletes.

On Tuesday, March 30, the annual athletic banquet will be held at the After Hours pub, at the Welland campus. All athletes and coaches of all Niagara Knights' sports teams are invited.

Ray Sarkis, assistant director of varsity athletics, says the night will feature many awards presentations.

"The major ones, of course, will be male and female athletes of the year, male and female freshmen of the year, MVPs, athlete of distinction, letters and certificates to those athletes who received honours through the OCAA (Ontario Colleges Athletic Association)."

Last year, Niagara College honoured its former athletes and athletic builders at the banquet by introducing the college's athletic hall of fame. However this year, there will not be any inductees introduced at the athletic banquet.

"We've separated the two," says Sarkis. "We wanted to keep the athletic banquet for our athletes now.

"We're honouring the former athletes and builders of this department in October. What we're calling it is Sports Homecoming Event. It will be run on Oct. 23."

The banquet gets underway at 6 p.m., with the awards ceremonies immediately following the dinner.

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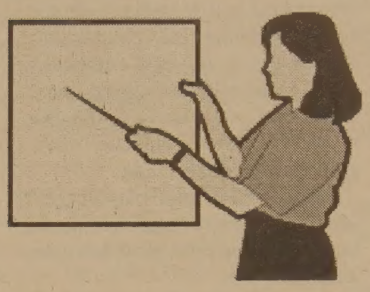
Eye On Niagara

Annual festival promotes women's achievements

International Women's Day salutes success, achievements



By RACHEL CZIFRA
Staff Writer

Women from Welland, Niagara Falls, Beamsville and other municipalities in the Niagara region participated in the ninth International Women's Day Festival held at St. Thomas Anglican church on Feb. 27.

"It was a wonderful day for women to get together for the betterment of women's life in general," said Eileen Roach, 72, of Beamsville.

This year, for the first time, the festival was held in a church. This made the atmosphere "very friendly," and the high church ceilings provided for "great" acoustics for the opening act.

The festivities began with a 45-minute set by SisterLune. The group of five local women, singing a cappella, provoked a strong response from the audience. From ambitious clapping, to the occasional fallen tear, the group was a "fabulous" introduction to the day, said Cyndy Crack, committee co-ordinator, from St. Catharines.

In a large hall, more than 50 organizations set up booths for everything from meditation tapes to traditional Indian hand-painting.

"Because it was a more homey location it felt more intimate," said Crack.

The festival aims to make the committee, especially the women, aware of the organizations available to them.

The YMCA, Medicare, Women's Place, Community Dialogue on Racism, and Worldwise were some of the organizations involved.

Colourful flyers, posters and pamphlets attracted many to the Community Dialogue on Racial Equality booth. The CDR is a non-profit, non-partisan community coalition comprising individuals and service organizations actively working to develop cross-cultural understanding and ethnocultural equity.

The 16-year-old vice-chair of Human Rights Youth Council stayed at the booth all day sharing plans for upcoming events and increasing community awareness.

The St. Catharines youth, Lindsey Edgar, invited people to make pledges for a youth bake-a-thon fund-raiser for local shelters or to become involved in a charity in April focusing on "promoting acceptance and equality in the work place."

Edgar said her family didn't teach her to be prejudiced against skin colour. She said she believes there is "no reason differences should stop you from getting to know someone."

Another booth promoting cultural awareness was Worldwise. This non-profit organization is one of many community-based global education resource centres across Ontario.

It's dedicated to fostering Canadian awareness of the people of Central and South America, Africa, Asia, Indonesia and the Caribbean.

"Part of our mandate is to work on social justice and gender issues under these guidelines," said Myra Quinonez-Alfonso, global education co-ordinator.

At intervals throughout the day, various groups and individuals gave workshops with themes from holistic stress management to consultation in relationships.

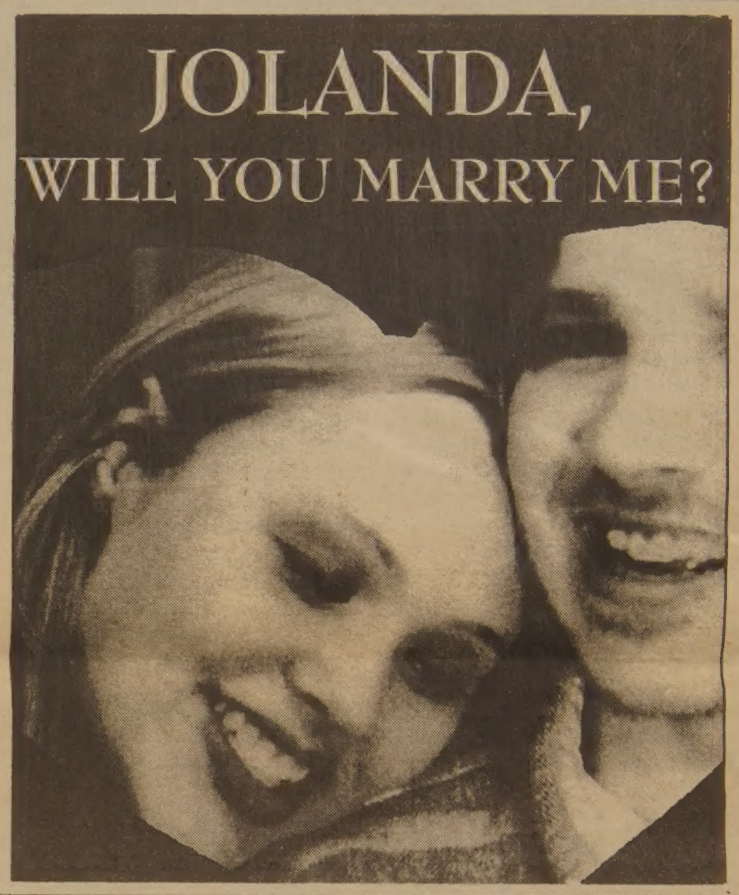
Inspirational singing, multicultural food, educational workshops and a warm atmosphere contributed to another successful commemoration of women's achievements.

Health, community services bursary available for students

A financial bursary for a full-time student in any allied health or community service program is available from the St. John Ambulance. Application deadline is Aug. 27.

The Welland-Port Colborne branch announced the bursary last week. The award is designated for an eligible candidate at entrance student level who has been accepted and is registered full-time at a Canadian college, university or recognized post-secondary educational institution.

Information and application forms are available at the Welland office of St. John Ambulance, 70 Elmwood Ave., Welland. For more information call 735-6431.



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Eye On Niagara

Niagara student wins twice at Pinnacle Awards

By LEAH FARNAN
Staff Writer

A Niagara College student took home one of five special awards from this year's Pinnacle Awards.

Alan Cimprich, of St. Catharines, a Niagara College Public Relations Post-graduate program student, was given two awards at the ninth annual Pinnacle Awards, held Feb. 25 on the main stage at the Ronald V. Joyce Centre for the Performing Arts at Hamilton Place.

Some of the awards are presented by the Hamilton Chapter of the Canadian Public Relations Society (CPRS) to their members in recognition of their achievements in the field. Other special awards are given to members of the community who support the public relations function.

"I was very happy and surprised," says Cimprich, in response to winning the awards. "I was very flattered."

He won this year's Pinnacle Student Award of Excellence. This is one of four special awards given out at the event. The other awards handed out that night were the Bill Cockman Memorial Award of Excellence, the Communicator of the Year Award, the Distinguished Service Award and the Chief Executive Officer of the Year Award.

Alan Cimprich, this year's Student Award of Excellence winner, sits with his fellow Public Relations post-graduate program classmates (from left) Mimi Choi, Lolita Hale and Jenn Collier.
Photo by Leah Farnan

Cimprich says he was "surprised" to win this award because he did not know he had been nominated.

This award is given to a student member of CPRS who is enrolled in a full-time public relations program and has demonstrated an understanding of public relations principles, professionalism, leadership and commitment to the field.

Cimprich took the college's Special Event Management Post-graduate program in 1998 before taking the Public Relations Post-graduate program. He qualified to take post-graduate studies because of his bachelor of arts (BA) degree he received in French and English from Brock University, St. Catharines and the honours BA he received in translation from Queen's University, Kingston, Ont.

In addition to winning the Student Award of Excellence, Cimprich won a Pinnacle Award in the Student Project category for his submission recounting his work with the DeCew Falls Generating Station's 100th anniversary celebrations.

The celebrations took place over a week's time in August 1998 and incorporated a plaque unveiling ceremony and a public open house.

"We (were) very happy with the public turnout for the open house," he says. "Over 2,500 (people) attended."

Cimprich says he thanks his classmates and instructors in the Special Events Management and the Public Relations programs for their help and support.

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